

Acronyms and Glossary

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCD	Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
AHS	Vermont Agency of Human Services
AMO	Access Management Organizations
ANI	Automatic Number Identification
ASL	American Sign Language
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
CAPI	Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division, Vermont Department of Public Service
CDBG	Community Development Block Grants
CDPD	Cellular Digital Packet Data
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CLEC	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
CPG	Certificates of Public Good
CPN	Calling Party Number
CPNI	Customer Proprietary Network Information
CVPS	Central Vermont Public Service Corporation
DET	Vermont Department of Employment and Training
DII	Vermont Department of Information and Innovation
DOCSIS	Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification
DOL	Vermont Department of Libraries
DPS	Vermont Department of Public Safety
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
DVR	Digital Video Recorder
EAS	Extended Area Service
EDA	U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
ETC	Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
FAHC	Fletcher Allen Health Care
FASTSTAR	Fletcher Allen Specialized Telemedicine for Supporting Transfer and Rescue
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FTTH	Fiber-To-The-Home
FX	Foreign Exchange
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GMP	Green Mountain Power
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service
GSM	Global Standard for Mobile Communications
GSP	Gross State Product
HDTV	High-Definition Television

HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
ILN	Interactive Learning Network
IM	Instant Messaging
IP	Internet Protocol
IRMAC	Information Resource Management Advisory Council
IRU	Indefeasible Right of Use
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Independent Telephone Company
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LAN	Local Area Network
LEC	Local Exchange Carriers
LMS	Local Measured Service
LNP	Local Number Portability
MPLS	Multi-Protocol Label Switching
NANPA	North American Numbering Plan Administrator
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NENA	National Emergency Number Association
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
ONU	Optical Network Units
PATH	Vermont Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access
PBX	Private Branch Exchange
PCS	Personal Communications Service
PEG	Public, Educational, and Governmental
PON	Passive Optical Network
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
PSB	Vermont Public Service Board
PSD	Vermont Public Service Department
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
PVR	Personal Video Recorder
RBOC	Regional Bell Operating Company
RETN	Regional Educational Television Network
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposals
ROW	Right-of-Way
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
RPR	Resilient Packet Rings
RRMC	Rutland Regional Medical Center
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SBDC	Small Business Development Center
SLC	Subscriber Line Charge
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access
TELRIC	Total Element Long-Run Incremental Cost

TSAC	Tower Siting Advisory Committee
TTY	Text Telephone
UNE	Unbundled Network Element
USF	Universal Service Fund
UVM	University of Vermont
VALS	Vermont Automated Libraries System
VAN	Vermont Access Network
VCRD	Vermont Council on Rural Development
VDH	Vermont Department of Health
VEDA	Vermont Economic Development Authority
VI	Vermont Institutes
VIBRS	Vermont Incident Based Reporting System
VIT	Vermont Interactive Television
VITC	Vermont Information Technology Center
VMEC	Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center
VOD	Video on Demand
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
VON	Voice on the Net
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VTAC	Vermont Telecommunications Advancement Center
VTrans	Vermont Agency of Transportation
VTRS	Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service
WAN	Wide Area Network
WISP	Wireless Internet Service Provider

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Access charge	A charge paid by long distance carriers to local exchange providers for use of local facilities in routing long distance calls.
Access line	A circuit between a subscriber and the central office that serves it.
Bit (Binary digit)	The smallest unit of information a computer can use. A bit is represented as a 0 or a 1 (also “on” or “off”). A group of 8 bits is " called a byte. Bits are often used to measure the speed of digital transmission systems.
Alternative regulation	A family of regulatory techniques that relax traditional rate-of-return regulation in favor of regulation by objectives such as price, service quality, or introduction of services.
Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM)	A type of fast packet data service that is specially designed to predictably manage multiple types of data streams, including ones with strict quality-of-service requirements like video and voice.
Broadband	A family of services that provide users with high-speed data communications. In some contexts, broadband is defined as services with an ability to transmit data at greater than specific rates measured in kbps or Mbps.
Byte	Eight bits of information composed of zeros or ones, one of which may include a parity bit. A byte is to a bit what a word is to a character.
Cable modem	A device for transmitting and receiving digital data over a cable television network. Used to deliver broadband (and sometimes telephone) service over cable networks.
Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)	One of several digital mobile wireless telephone and data standards used in the U.S.

Central office	The telephone company facilities that house switching and related equipment to serve the immediate geographical area. The central office is the most immediate point of interface between the telephone company and customers.
Certificate of public good (CPG)	The permission required from and granted by the State of Vermont to allow a utility or regulated industry, such as a cable company, to do business and serve subscribers in Vermont.
Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC)	A non-incumbent LEC. See also Local Exchange Carrier, Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier.
Customer proprietary network information (CPNI)	Information about a customer's calling patterns and other personal information that technologies now enable telephone companies to collect.
Dial tone line rate	The basic monthly charge under measured service for access to the telephone network. A charge related to usage is charged as well.
Digital signature	A form of encryption technology that can be used to scramble a message before transmission so as to secure it during transit and prevent anyone but the intended recipient from unscrambling it to retrieve the "information in the message. Additionally, the use of digital signatures enables " the sender's identity to be verified by the recipient.
Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)	A family of technologies that extends the ability of copper telephone lines to carry high-speed data telecommunications over short and medium range distances.
Digital Video Recorder (DVR)	See Personal Video Recorder.

Distance learning	Interactive instruction or training services conducted among remote participants from distributed sites. Audio, visual, data telecommunications devices and related systems are employed. There are many distance learning models; traditional lecture format, remote students with a teacher at a central location, and cooperative learning arrangements involving multiple connections of small groups from various locations.
DS-1	A type of digital service transmitting voice or data at 1.544 Mbps. Sometimes used as a synonym for a T-1 (see also T-1, below). Where distinguished from one another, a DS-1 generally refers to the service, while T-1 refers to the facility carrying the service.
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)	A telecommunications carrier that qualifies and has been designated to receive high-cost support from the Federal Universal Service Fund.
Ethernet	The dominant computer networking protocol for Local Area Networks that is often used in the networks of telecommunications carriers.
Exchange	A geographical unit, served by one or more central offices, established for the administration of uniform rates for communications service within that area. Vermont is currently served by 141 exchanges.
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	A board of five commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate in accordance with the 1934 Communications Act. The FCC has the power to regulate interstate and foreign communications originating in the United States by wire and radio.
Fiber optics	Hair-thin glass fibers that transmit light waves capable of carrying enormous amounts of information.

Franchise area	The geographic region in which the PSB or FCC has granted a public service company the authority to offer specific types of service.
Gigabit	One billion bits.
General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)	A mobile wireless communications protocol related to GSM used to provide mobile data services.
Global Standard for Mobile Communications (GSM)	One of several digital mobile wireless telephone standards used in the U.S. and the dominant standard throughout Europe and much of the world.
Head end	The originating point of a signal in cable TV systems.
Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC)	A local telephone company that was in operation prior to the advent of competition for telephone service, or a successor to such a company.
Independent phone company	In Vermont, an ILEC other than Verizon.
kbps	Kilobits per second, a unit of data transfer speed.
Kilobit	One thousand binary digits or bits.
Local area network (LAN)	A private communications network linking terminals and computers in a specific area, such as an office or home.
Local exchange carrier (LEC)	A telecommunications company that provides local telephone or data telecommunications service; distinguished from long-distance or interexchange carriers by the fact that they provide the links to consumers at their homes or businesses.
Local loop	The part of the telephone network, i.e., the wires, between a central office and a customer's premise.
Local measured service (LMS)	Local service for which a customer pays a flat dial tone line rate for access to the telephone network, plus a usage charge for each minute of local calling.
Locality	A border area of Vermont that is serviced by a telephone central office in another state.
Mbps	Megabits per second, a unit of data transfer speed.
Megabit	One million binary digits or bits.

Megabyte	A unit of measurement for data storage equal to one million bytes or precisely 1,048,576 bytes; often used as a unit of measurement in describing memory capacity of computer disks and drives.
Microwave	In communications, an atmospheric transmission method using high radio frequencies to transmit analog or digital voice, data, or video signals between antennas or on satellite links.
Personal Communications Service (PCS)	A digital cellular technology providing voice, video, and data services. Uses a higher frequency band than traditional cellular services, limiting the range of signals, but which offers greater bandwidth than the traditional cellular bands.
Personal Video Recorder (PVR)	A device for recording television on a hard drive, integrated with electronic program guides. Allows users to skip forward or reverse instantly, manage and access recorded programs more readily than when using videotapes, and view a recorded program while recording another program.
Plain old telephone service (POTS)	A term used to identify basic voice phone service.
Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)	A term used to denote the interconnected networks of many carriers that collectively to provide telephone services to the public. Sometimes used as a term to distinguish these networks from other networks, such as the Internet or private communications networks.
Private branch exchange (PBX)	A private switching system on the customer's premises, which switches calls between phones in the office and to or from the outside phone network.
Public, education, and government (PEG) access channels	The 1984 Cable Act established that access to local cable television franchises are provided to communities who want them. Public, education, and government are three types of “public access” channels.

Public safety answering point (PSAP)	Local, state, or regional center for answering 9-1-1 calls. It may or may not be the dispatch center.
Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC)	Seven RBOCs were created by the breakup of the Bell System (AT&T) in 1984. These were Bell Atlantic, Bell South, NYNEX, Ameritech, USWest, Pacific Telsis, and Southwestern Bell. After a series of mergers and acquisitions, four remain: Verizon, SBC, Qwest, and Bell South.
T-1	A type of digital carrier system transmitting voice or data at 1.544 Mbps.
Tariff	The published rates, regulations, and descriptions governing provision of a regulated public service such as telecommunications services.
Telecommuting	Using a computer, modem, and telephone system to connect with a computer system at the workplace and performing tasks that are typically done at the workplace from home or another remote location.
Telework	Sometimes used as a synonym for "telecommuting," and sometimes used as a broader term to encompass telecommuting plus other situations where telecommunications enables work to be done at a distance, whether or not it displaces a traditional commute.
Terrabit	One trillion bits.
Unbundled Network Element (UNE)	A particular piece of an ILEC's network (such as the local loop, switching, or transport facilities between central offices) sold at wholesale rates to a CLEC.
Unbundling	Pronounced "yoo-nee." Separating out for individual sale a particular service or element of a network that is commonly sold together with other elements or services.

Video on Demand (VOD)	A cable TV service that allows a cable subscriber to select a program and have it delivered over the cable network at a time of the subscriber's choosing. Typically the service also allows the subscriber to fast forward, rewind, and pause the program.
Virtual Private Network (VPN)	Emulation of dedicated private data circuits over a shared data network, often over the Internet.
Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)	Transporting digitized voice communication over private networks that use Internet Protocol or over the public Internet. Frequently, but not always, the service provides telephone or telephone-like communication, and may enable communication with users on the PSTN.
Wi-Fi	The popular name for an industry standard used for providing wireless local area networks (LANs) over license-free wireless spectrum.